

Fall 8-15-2008

## ENG 2205-003: Intro to Literary Studies

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**ENGLISH 2205, SECTION 03 – INTRO TO LITERARY STUDIES**

Professor: Dr. Marjorie Worthington  
 Office: Coleman Hall 3556  
 Phone: 581-6294  
 Email: mgworthington@eiu.edu  
 Class: TR 3:30-4:45, Coleman Hall 3691  
 Office Hours: TR 2:00-3:30pm, or by appt.

**Texts:** Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice*  
 Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby*  
 Shakespeare, William. *Hamlet*  
 Eres texts (password: \_\_\_\_\_)  
 Tyson, Lois. *Critical Theory Today* (CTT on syllabus)

**Course Objectives include (but are not limited to):**

- Understanding and practicing several different methods of interpreting literature.
- Practicing various modes of writing about literature.
- Learning to collect evidence and research related to writing
- Developing an ability to discuss literature intelligently in a classroom setting.

**Written Assignments:** All of your written assignments must be word-processed unless otherwise stated. You should purchase a folder in which to hand in these assignments because each essay assignment will consist of several different parts that will be turned in on the due date. Assignments **must** be submitted, in their entirety, **on the day they are due** unless you have made prior arrangements with me. Written assignments consist of those listed below, as well as several shorter assignments that will arise as the course progresses. Some of these will be done as in-class activities, some as out-of-class assignments. Consistent attendance is necessary, as this course and the assignments connected with it will change and develop according to the direction in which we want the course to go. You must complete all major written assignments (including the final presentation) to pass this course.

**REQUIREMENTS: YOU MUST COMPLETE ALL ASSIGNMENTS TO PASS THIS COURSE.**

**Short Essays (one page, single-spaced):** You will need to write 5 of these essays over the course of the semester. When they are due is based on the first letter of your last name (see group assignments below). You will write about the ideas discussed in that day's reading and you'll need to be prepared to discuss your ideas in class on that day. These essays are NOT "response papers" in which you simply provide your personal reaction to the reading. Instead, your essays should have a thesis statement and should engage analytically with the ideas from the reading. You should make an argument about what you have read: is this critical approach fruitful for understanding literature? How does this particular literary text relate to a particular critical approach?

**Group A: A-Go; Group B: Gp-Ku; Group C: Kv-Me; Group D: Mf-Sc; Group E: Sd-Z**

**Research Essay (6-7 pages):** We will be discussing how to do research in literary criticism, which databases work well for which kind of text, and how to read and incorporate this kind of research into your writing. For this essay, you will do some critical research on a text in this course and write an essay based on your findings.

**Theory Essay (6-7 pages):** For this essay, you will discuss how one of the critical or theoretical modes we have examined can serve as an aid for understanding literature; in addition, discuss what the possible blind spots are to the approach you have chosen. In other words, what are the strengths and weaknesses of this critical approach in helping one understand literary texts? I do not want any “compare/contrast” essays here. Those rarely go beyond simple summary toward any real analysis. This essay may be an extension of one of your short essays, in that you may take the ideas you touched upon there and expand upon them here. However, do NOT simply mush together several of those essays; it won’t work.

**Midterm and Final Exams:** These will cover all the material from the course, so you should be taking good notes, both on the reading and on class lecture and discussion. The exams will consist of both essay and short answer questions. The midterm will cover the first half of the course, the final the latter half.

### **POLICIES:**

**Attendance:** Your consistent attendance and participation are necessary to make this class the vibrant exchange of ideas it should be and I take attendance every day (even if you do not see me doing it). You are permitted no more than three unexcused absences. Each unexcused absence after three will lower your **final** grade by thirty points (3%). Excused absences are accompanied by appropriate legal or medical documentation.

**Conferences:** The hours listed above are times when I will be in my office ready to meet with students. You can also make a special appointment to see me if you are unable to come during office hours. I encourage you to come and talk to me about your work as often as you like.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is defined as appropriating words or ideas that are not your own without giving proper credit. The temptation to plagiarize can be great, particularly in the advent of extensive computer technology and the collaborative nature of our class. However, the consequences of plagiarism are dire and can result in a grade of F for the assignment and even for the course. It will also result in a report to the Judicial Affairs Office.

### **Grade Breakdown:**

Short Essays (x5)	200
Research Essay	200
Theory Essay	200
Midterm Exam	200
Final Exam	200

### ENG 2205 READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- Aug. 26 T Introduction  
28 Th *Gatsby*, Chap.1 & CTT, Chap. 1
- A & B** Sept.2 T *Gatsby*, Chaps 2-5 & CTT, Chap 10  
C 4 Th *Gatsby*, Chaps 6-7, Discussion of Database Research
- D & E** 9 T *Gatsby*, Chap 8-end & CTT, Chap 5  
A 11 Th CTT, Chap 7, Discussion of Database research, cont'd
- B 16 T *Hamlet*, Act I  
C 18 Th *Hamlet*, Act II
- D 23 T *Hamlet*, Act III  
E 25 Th *Hamlet*, Act IV
- A 30 T *Hamlet*, Act V  
Oct. 2 Th *Hamlet*, 181-207, **Research Essays due**
- B 7 T *Hamlet*, 208-220 & CTT, Chap 4  
C 9 Th *Hamlet*, 332-348 & CTT, Chap 3
- D 14 T *Hamlet*, 283-296 & CTT, Chap 8  
16 Th **Midterm Exam**
- E 21 T *Hamlet*, 241-255 & CTT, Chap 2  
A 23 Th *Hamlet*, 368-380 & CTT, Chap 9
- B 28 T *Pride and Prejudice*, Chaps 1-16  
C 30 Th *Pride and Prejudice*, Chap 17-Chap 23
- D Nov. 4 T *Pride and Prejudice*, Part II, Chap 1-Chap 19 (or to Chap 42)  
E 6 Th *Pride and Prejudice*, Part III, Chap 1-Chap 2 (or to Chap 44) & CTT, Chap 6
- A 11 T *Pride and Prejudice*, Chaps 3-14 (or to Chap 56)  
13 Th Essay Peer Review
- B 18 T *Pride and Prejudice*, Chaps 15-end (or Chap 57-end) & CTT, Chap 7  
20 Th CTT, Chap 12, **Theory Essays due**

### THANKSGIVING BREAK

- C Dec. 2 T Langston Hughes poetry & "Battle Royal," Ralph Ellison (available on eres)  
D 4 Th CTT, Chap 11
- E 9 T CTT, Chap 13  
11 Th Exam Review

**Monday, Dec. 15, 12:30-2:30 – FINAL EXAM**